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Letter dated 11 April 2002 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

As you know, the situation in Angola has changed dramatically in recent months. The Chiefs of Staff of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) and the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 4 April 2002 as an Addendum to the Lusaka Protocol for the Cessation of Hostilities and the Resolution of Outstanding Military Issues, paving the way for a general ceasefire. According to the Memorandum, the United Nations is expected to provide military observers, and technical and material support, as well as technical expertise to the quartering, demilitarization and reintegration of UNITA military forces. In addition, it has been asked to provide initial emergency assistance to the families of demobilized troops and to assist in the quartering, disarming and repatriation of foreign troops.

The Government of Angola had indicated that the signing of the Memorandum marked the beginning of the second phase of the peace process dealing with the remaining political items of the Lusaka Protocol. As you know, my Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa, Under-Secretary-General Ibrahim A. Gambari, travelled to Angola at my request to represent me at the signing ceremony and to initial the Memorandum as a witness in the company of representatives of the Troika — Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America. I also asked my Adviser to discuss with the Angolan parties the second phase of the peace process and to clarify the role of the United Nations in that regard. He is expected to conclude those discussions on 20 April 2002.

After receiving the report of my Adviser, I intend to submit a comprehensive report to the Security Council containing recommendations on the future role of the United Nations in Angola and the resources and structures required to support it. As requested, my Adviser will provide an oral briefing on his discussions in Luanda to members of the Council on 23 April 2002.

In the meantime, I should like to request the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Office in Angola (UNOA) at the current strength for a period of three months, until 15 July 2002, in order to allow time for further discussion with the Government of Angola and UNITA, and for the preparation of an updated and comprehensive report to the Council on the situation in Angola and the future role of the United Nations in the country.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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